

The Gallery at the Comsewogue Public Library

PAUL CAMMARATA ART EXHIBIT IMAGE EVOLUTION

A journey from traditional photography to impressionism and abstract art

May 1st- 24th | Reception: May4, 2024 from 2:00-4:00pm | www.gallerycstudios.com

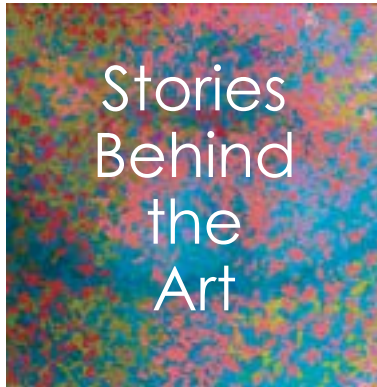


IMAGE EVOLUTION

“Art is created through many paths and mediums. Image Evolution is an exhibit of impressionist and abstract art which started as traditional photography and through a number of creative techniques, evolved into different realms of imagery and art.

I bring the evolution stages of my work and thought process of what I strive to achieve in each piece of this exhibit. In some cases it is an artistic styling that I bring to an image and in others, I transition into unique impressionism or abstract art.

When I capture my original imagery, there is an essence of the scenery or subject matter that engages me to look through my lens and take the photo. It is each of these essences that I work to bring out in ways that make sense for the feelings and emotion I try to evoke in my work. Sometimes it is color, light and tone that grabs my attention. Other times it is the full composition I see or it can be a pattern and movement that is hidden to the traditional viewpoint.

At times, I can immediately envision the final piece as soon as I come upon what I am capturing. For other work, I study the photograph and look to see where I can pull the original “essence” that engaged me and look to find ways to bring it more into the forefront of the art. I do this through my training, experience and knowledge of traditional painting, graphic art, printing and more. I then experiment with digital tools to get the desired effects that will help me get to the finished art.

In this exhibit, you will see various stages from original captured photography to final art along with some written comments regarding the artistic exploration that I took on each piece.

As always, my goal is to create art and imagery which goes beyond the traditional... for me, it is an art form of discovery.

I hope those who view this exhibit enjoy it as much as I have enjoyed discovering, studying, capturing and creating each piece in this exhibit.”

– Paul Cammarata –

All art + photography in this exhibit

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Deep Blue - Photo Painting

Impressionism - Print



While out on a friend's boat in Port Jefferson Harbor, I turned and saw this elongated cloud hovering over the inlet. The wide view struck me, and I now I was capturing something that I can work with. The day was bright and slightly hazy. I figured when downloading on my computer that I would do something that would slightly enhance the color of the sky, or make it into deep contrast Black & White photography. As I was adjusting tone and color and kept looking at the image, I wanted to try and make an abstract but as I was working on it, I started to envision an impressionist painting.

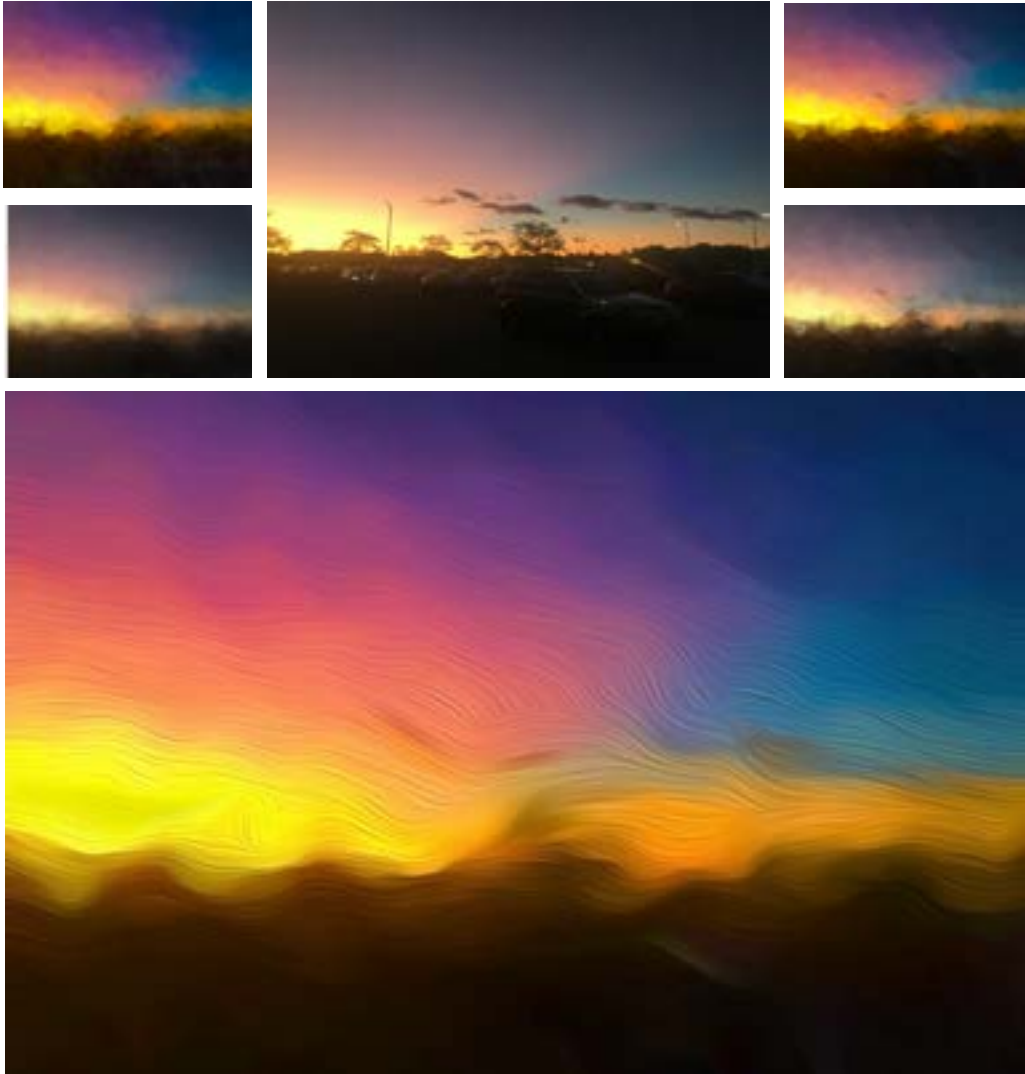
I kept experimenting with digital painting techniques and (digital) brushes. Before I knew it, I started to create a dark and stormy night shot. As I continued, I took pieces from a couple of versions that I created and brought them into one, pulling in white caps from one, clouds from another.... placed them in layers on top of each other at different opacities. Once I had the look that I was happy with, I combined into my art titles "Deep Blue".

Lily Blast - Photo Painting
Impressionism - Print



This photo-painting originated from one of my black and white photographs (which was converted from a color image). I took the black and white image and duplicated it in multiple color channels. I then experimented with color, tone, and saturation. I also rescaled, stretched and pulled, digitally painted, smudged and blended colors for final touches to make it look like the flower pedals were exploding with life... it was a blast creating this one.

Ronkonkoma Skies - Photo Painting
Abstract - Print



Many times in my morning drive to the train station in Ronkonkoma, NY, I would see the sky, sun or clouds and get an impression of color (sky), movement (clouds) or vibrancy (sun). Also after coming home in the evening, would get impressions such as composition (sky and ground), light (from seeing sun or street lights) and color (combination of sky & lights).

On this particular evening as the sun was setting, I cam off the train and was struck by the transition of color in the sky. It appeared to move or metamorphose from one color to the next. Also the balance of darkness from the parking lot to the sky showed nice composition.

I new that I needed to enhance and saturate the color more . Then, as I always do, I experiment with digital techniques form splatter and speckle effects to paint strokes, just see which was the right direction for this emerging art.

Since the color in the sky was flying into each other, I sensed movement and thought elongated paint strokes would give life to this sill image. When I see the final, it visually depicted the sense of what I felt when I first looked up at this "Ronkonkoma Skies".

Sunset illumination - Photo Painting
Abstract - Canvas



I was at a friend's home and looked out the window, towards the backyard and noticed the sun illuminating from behind some distant trees. I walked out on the deck and took a photo to capture the sunset and deep blue sky behind the pattern of trees.

I didn't have my camera so I used my phone. The quality was pretty good. When I brought the file home and onto my computer. I wanted to see where I can take this silhouette of trees with the sun setting as an image. I started to create versions that were more impressionistic (keeping a good sense and recognition of the distant trees and recognizable sunset.)

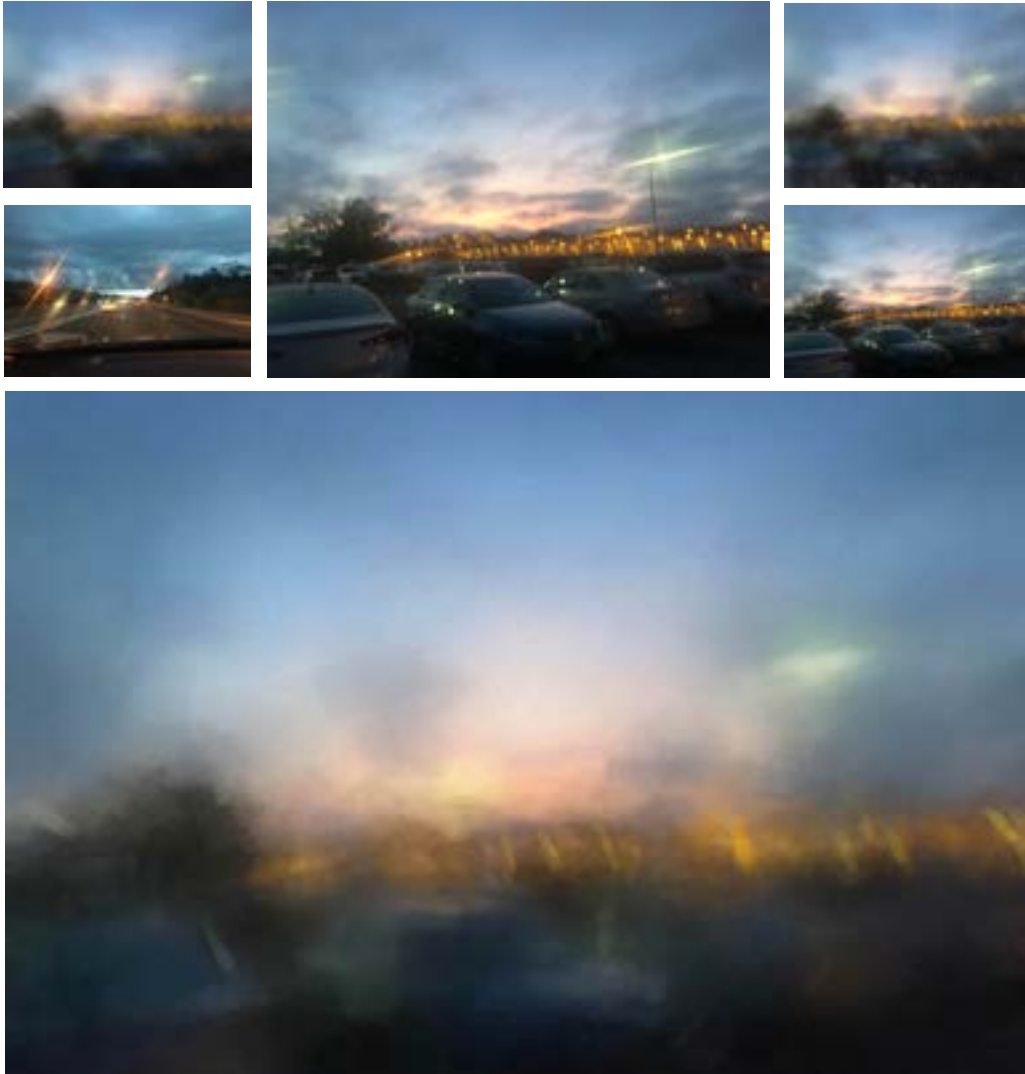
I liked what came up with, but still felt it was too traditional and wanted to experiment further into abstraction. As I was working on it, I realized it was the light illumination that I was the subject. I worked on "motion" and "stretching" techniques to take the scene away from a recognizable scene but kept the focus of the illuminated light peaking from the horizon through the now unrecognizable ground shadows and color of the sky.

As the Evening Arrives - Photo Painting
Impressionism - Print



As the sun was setting in my backyard, it peaked thought the far end of my yard before turning into night. I had a sense that was not "end of the day "but my senses felt a new beginning of the evening. The sun passed its torch to a crisp deep blue evening. I wanted to capture this as an abstract but with some impression of the landscape reality. This is part of some motion styles that I had been experimenting for a bit. After some cross motion wast filtered in the art, I went in an (digitally) painted some smooth strokes of color is selected areas for the right balance of dark and light.

South Shore Lights - Photo Painting
Impressionism - Print



What I enjoy about this one is my final piece has the feeling of looking over the water across the bay or a harbor to distant lights of homes on the south shore of Long Island. In reality, I took the original photograph in a parking next to a train station. Most of the lights are for the train platform with a street light and reflected light on parked cars.

I really loved the essence from the color and lights in the original image. I squinted my eyes while reviewing the image and I started to see the impressionistic look that I wanted to achieve. I started to soften out some clarity and focus in the image and as I did that, I started to see what this digital painting was supposed to become.

I wanted to just create an abstract but as I continued on my creative journey, a new scene appeared even though the color and tone essence had not. I been told many times that "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder" ...it is, even if you have to squint.

Distinction - Photo Painting
Abstract - Canvas



I was taking some photos of myself for a portrait. I took one and cropped it to a distinct facial feature. The crop was so small that when I enlarged the digital image, it started to "bitmap" and pixels". what's interesting is I saw a pattered that I found interesting. I kept trying different photos and digital paint techniques and created a "grayish" abstract with pastels colors and called it "Facial Distinction". after a few months, I went back an looked an the art and what I thought was once done, now felt incomplete.

I started to play with saturation and color. Once I got to something that I liked, I went back o some different topping techniques and (digital) brushes. I settled with an "oil" brush stroke, but made the overall piece have a "graphic"look to it. As the final piece emerged, it was distinct looking but there was no more sense of any facial feature and "Distinction" was born.

Untitled Iris - Photo Painting
Abstract - Print



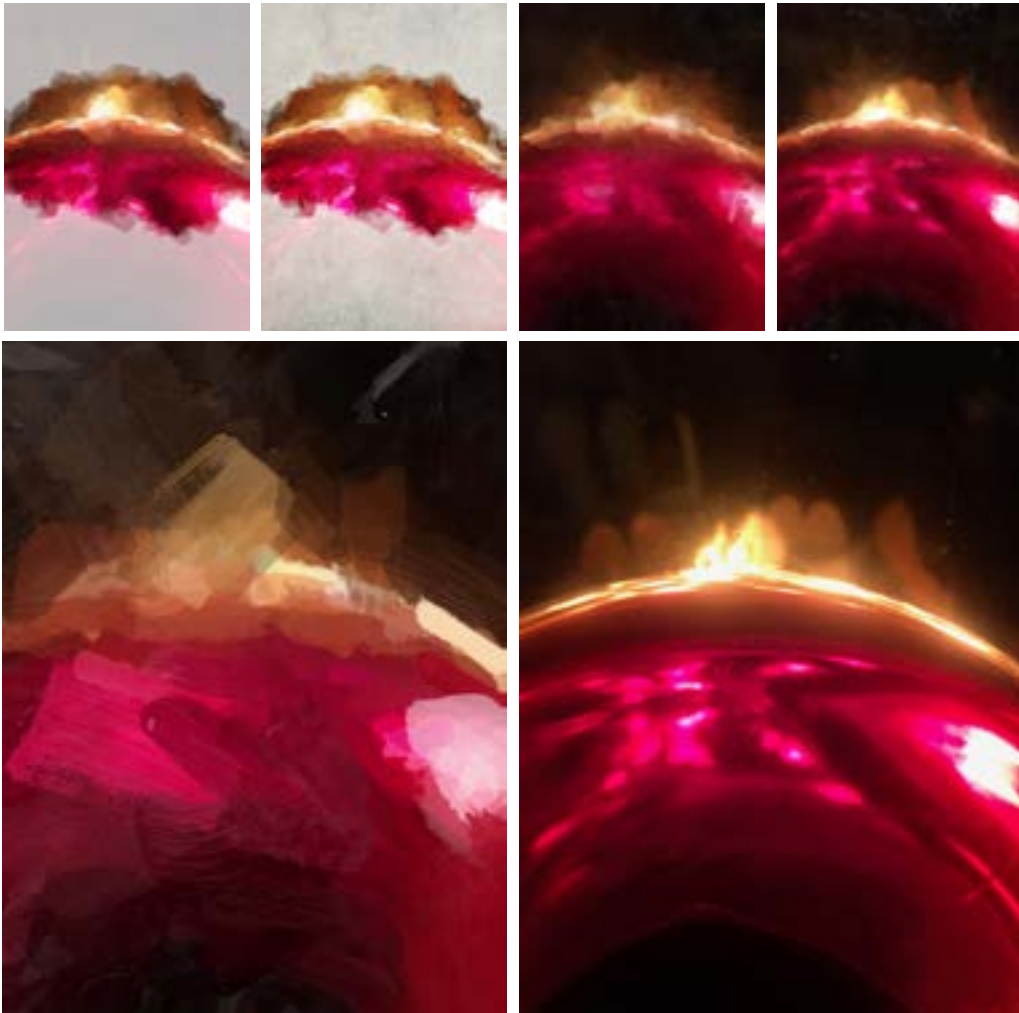
This is a combination of two original photographs. Once combining them and adjusting opacity and color, I then used digital "oil" simulated brushes and filters to derive at the desired look having this abstract with touches of reality. Naming was the touch one on this. At first untitled and I already had a photograph titled Iris" so with all my creativity put into the art, all I had left was to simply titles "Untitled Iris".

Maple Dance - Photography
Abstract - Photographic print



I photographed this from under a red maple that is in my front yard. It was a sunny day and the leaves were starting to turn green. The Sun peering through gave a slight transparency to some leaves while bringing contrasting shadows to others. While processing I added an overall red filter to the image but then started to mask out areas I different tonal values to bring this abstracted look to this photograph.

Noir Flame - Photography
Abstract - Print



While enjoying a cool evening outside by a fire pit, the glow of the flames seeping through my glass of pino noir made an interesting display of shape and color. I took a quick shot then the next day started to explore where I can take it as a digital painting.

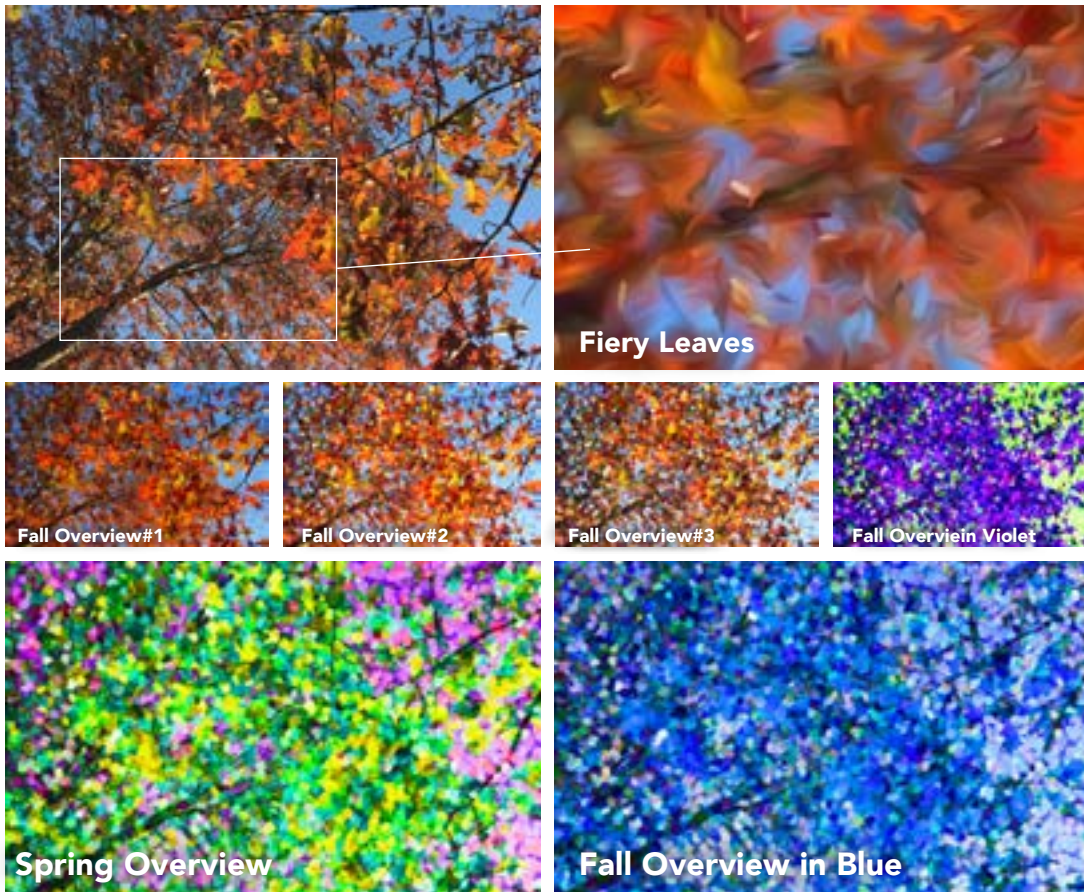
Jackson Woods - Photography
Impressionism - Print



The intertwining of branches and tree trunks create interesting patterns. I captured this photograph in my back yard. I then took the image, converted it into a black & white image and opened up the contrast so the branches were silhouetted on a white background.

The next stage was to copy the image create a blank color image (appearing to be all white space) then copy the B&W image in each four color process channel (cyan, Magenta, Yellow and black). From that point I started to stretch and resize each channel to different scale in size. I then adjusted opacities and contrast of each channel... essentially creating a four exposure digital photograph. As I kept adjusting, it started to look like ink or paint splatters, giving the art titled "Jackson Woods" new life.

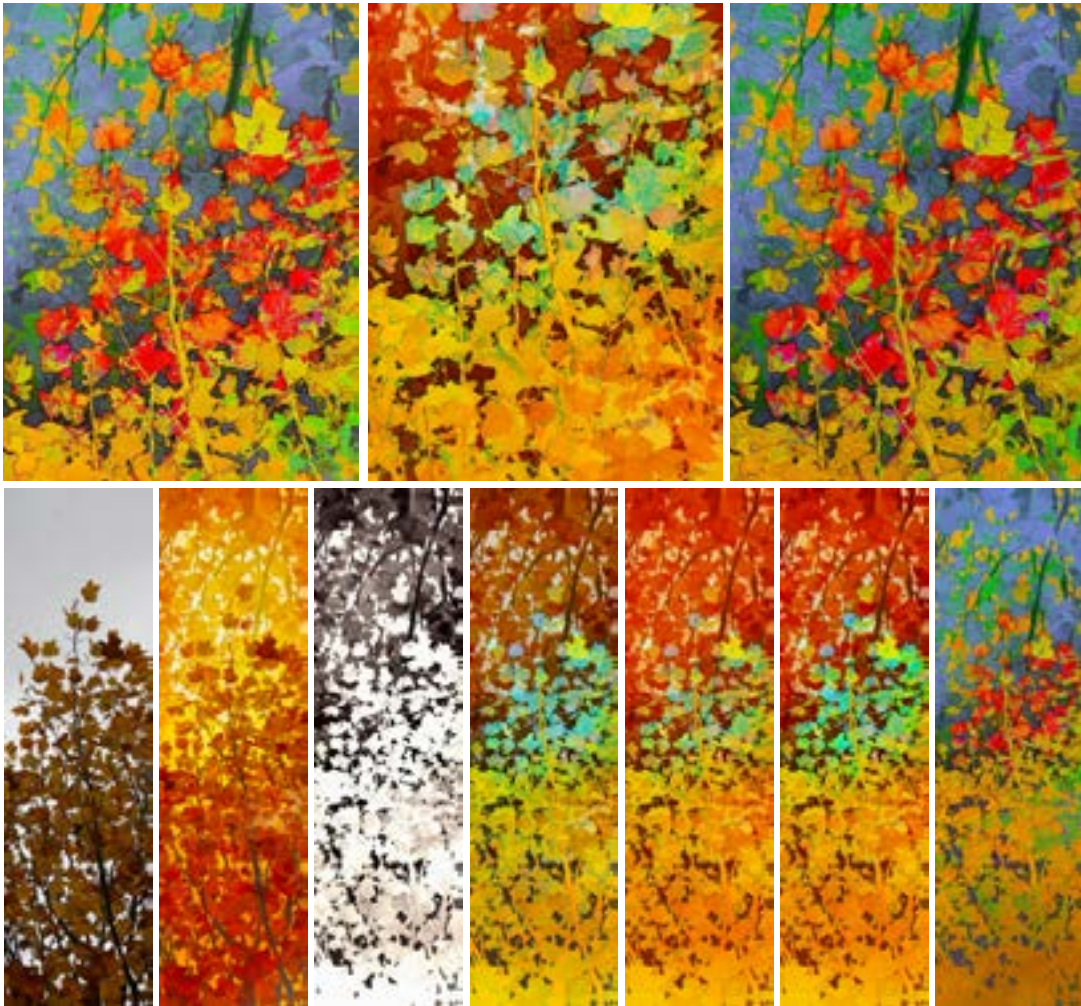
Fall Overview in Blue, Spring Overview + Fiery Leaves - Photo Painting
Impressionism - Canvas



This originated as an overhead shot of oak trees in my backyard. In reviving the color of the leaves, I first wanted to pick up on what looked like “dancing” oranges, reds and browns. I started to play with color saturation and paint styles to see what looked good. I then put in layers of patterns which took this from image to impressionistic art. After I was happy with the results, I decided to play with color for different versions and in a sense time of day or different season.

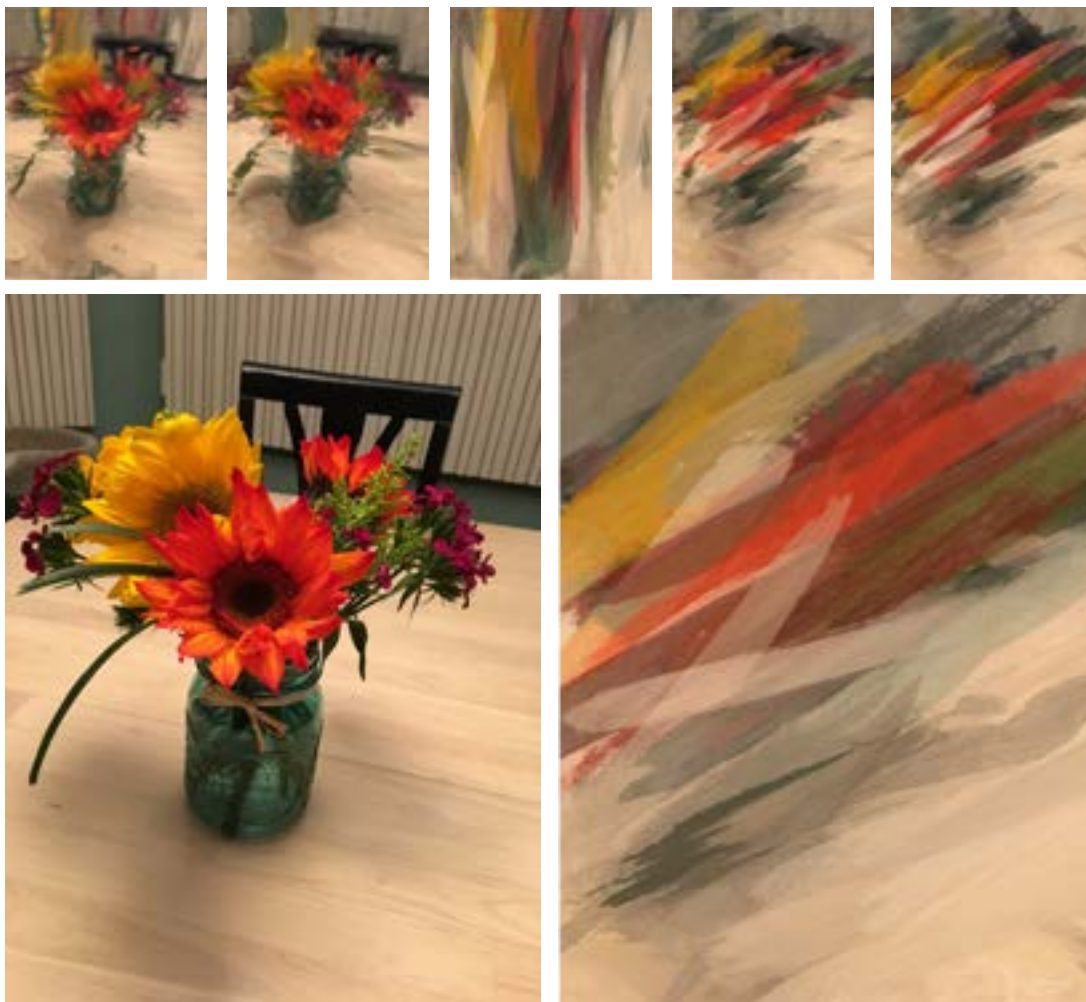
I also created another piece of art titled “Fiery Leaves”. In this piece I pulled from the color of the leaves and added motion to make the leaves appear as flames.

Autumn Splendor + Mid Autumn Splendor - Photo Painting
Impressionism - Print



This originated as an overhead shot of oak trees in my backyard. In reviving the color of the leaves, I first wanted to pick up on what looked like “dancing” oranges, reds and browns. I started to play with color saturation and paint styles to see what looked good. I then put in layers of patterns which took this from image to impressionistic art. After I was happy with the results, I decided to play with color for different versions and in a sense seasons.

Flowers on Table #5 - Photo Painting
Abstract - Print



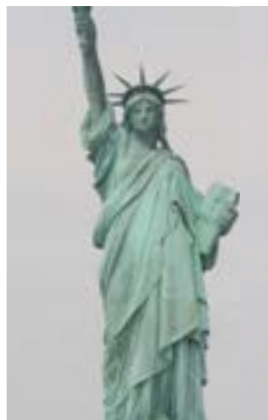
This was simply a photograph of a jar of flowers that were on my kitchen table. I photographed it in many angles, both close and far. At this time, I was experimenting with finding ways to take my traditional photographs and create art from them. This jar of flowers had bold colors and large pedals which I thought would be great to experiment with for my quest.

In my first adaptations, I kept the flowers recognizable and just had the art it look like a painting of flowers. As I kept experimenting, I did what I was trained to do in my high school painting classes... make each one further away from a realistic look into an impressionistic or abstract look I was finally went into full abstraction and the result is "Flowers on Table #5".

Lady Liberty, Liberty + Give Me Liberty

Photo Painting, Photography

Impressionism - Print



This image is part of a series of NYC images that I took while on a boat trip around Manhattan. I accentuated the photograph with a rough feel to capture the tough and nostalgic feel of NY. I thought the side view was fitting for this image as it appears that Lady liberty is looking to welcome boats of people heading her way.

Living in New York, many of us do not go to the typical tourist spots that many from around the globe do. With that in mind, my family and I decided to be tourist for a day and take a trip on the famous Circle Line. It was a gray day but I was able to capture many good photographs. As we floated by the Statue of Liberty, I thought of my grandfathers coming over to America for the first time.

I wanted to see what I can do to capture the essence of the time of my grandfathers came over ("Lady Liberty") and the essence of the American Dream. ("Liberty" and "Liberty in Red, White & Blue")

Image Evolution - An Art Exhibit by Paul Cammarata

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Tug - Photo Painting
Impressionism - Print



This was one of the first images that I worked on for my book, "Next Stop... Port Jefferson". I wanted to enhance the look and feel of some of the images in this book to have "old-time" feeling due to this maritime village was once know for ship building. I first converted the image to B&W , then to sepia color. This as first step to get an "old-time" effect. I then added softness, warm tones and i also blew out some highlights to appear worn out and faded.

Off to Connecticut - Photography
Photographic print



I was working on my book, "Next Stop... Port Jefferson". I wanted to enhance the look and feel of some of the images in this book to have "old-time" feeling due to this maritime village was once know for ship building. Currently there is ferry service from Port Jefferson, Long island to Connecticut. This photo shows one of the ferries leaving long island. I first converted the image to B&W , then to sepia color. This as first step to get an "old-time"effect. I then added softness, warm tones and in this one even put in worn-out canvas look into the image.

So, if you are headinig to Connecticut from the Port Jefferson ferry,
I hope you think of this piece.

Old Betsy - Photography
Photographic print



I was just walking in town and came by this old Chevy Truck. I took a couple shots from the camera on my phone. After downloaded it to my computer, I worked on some color and lighting enhancements... with a little care, even "Old Betsy" can have a fresh look.

It was a Good Year - Photography
Photographic print



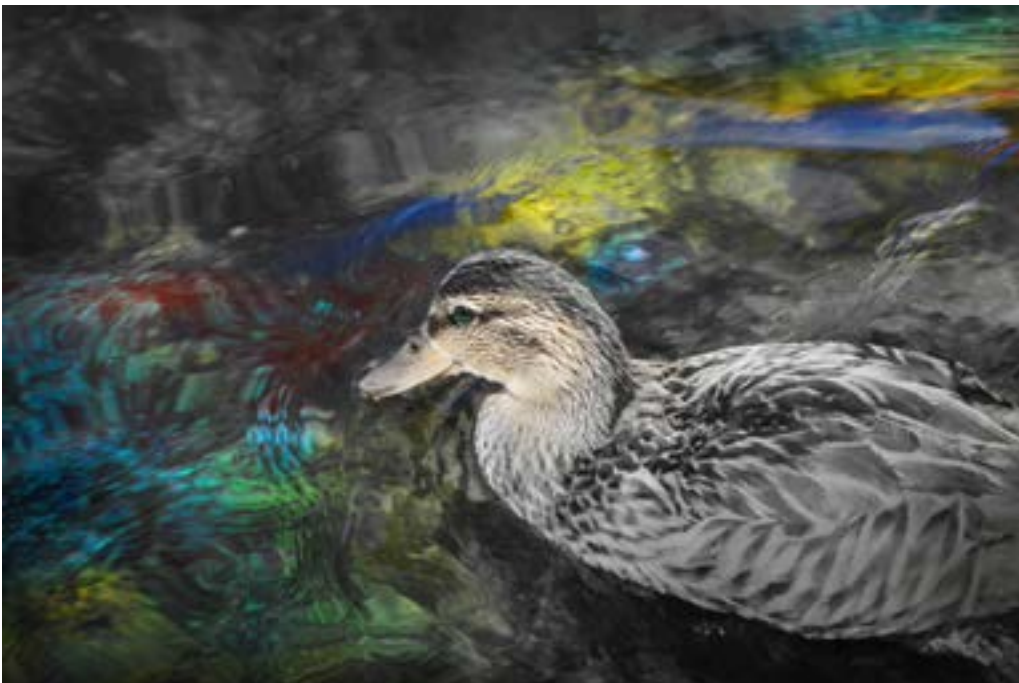
I use to go to many car shows for custom and classic automobiles. This tire was a spare on the back of an old classic auto. With any vehicle that I photograph, I try to pull out what I see as the "personality" of each one. For this tire, I saw an old classic that had some wrinkles and cracks, but still appeared viable and trustworthy. I made an old-time" sepia image and framed it out with a nice vignette to highlight this fine tread.

Golden Eyes - Photography
Photographic print



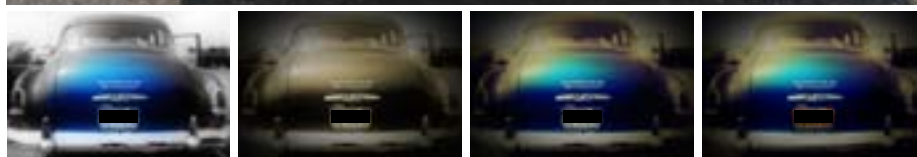
So my family loves cats and this one cat of ours named Sammy, was the subject for a number of my photographs. In this one, he was under the covers in our bed and when I lifted the sheets and blanket, he popped his head out but stayed still in this relaxed pose but opened his eyes. I was struck by his calm stare. I converted the image to black and white, then highlighted his eyes with the soft yet intense look.

George - Photography
Photographic print



While visiting Lake George, NY, I followed a family of ducks and captured them with my camera. I took this photograph and wanted to enhance it in different ways than I have in other images. First I converted it into a B+W image then, I enriched the contrast to bring clarity and impact to the image. I then brought in color to accentuate movement in the water ripples. I also thought keeping the duck in black and white except for some slight color in the duck's face added a nice balance to the composition.

A Step back in Time - Photography
Photographic print



In many of my series of custom + classic automobile imagery, I always make an effort to enhance the “personality” of each car. This was one of the first auto that I wanted to visually “step back in time” and bring a nostalgic look to the image while highlighting the beauty in the design of this classic.

Parked Speed - Photography
Photographic print



How do you make a parked car appear to have movement? You take a photo at an interesting angle, play around with focus, shadows and color then give it an (almost) illustrative poster look to it.

I use to go to many custom + classic automobile shows and when I came across this custom roadster, it seemed to move in place. I always look at different angles to emphasized the design of the auto but in this case it was more about where this car can go. The emphasis on the tread of the tire and classic street car rims showed that his baby is ready to roll!

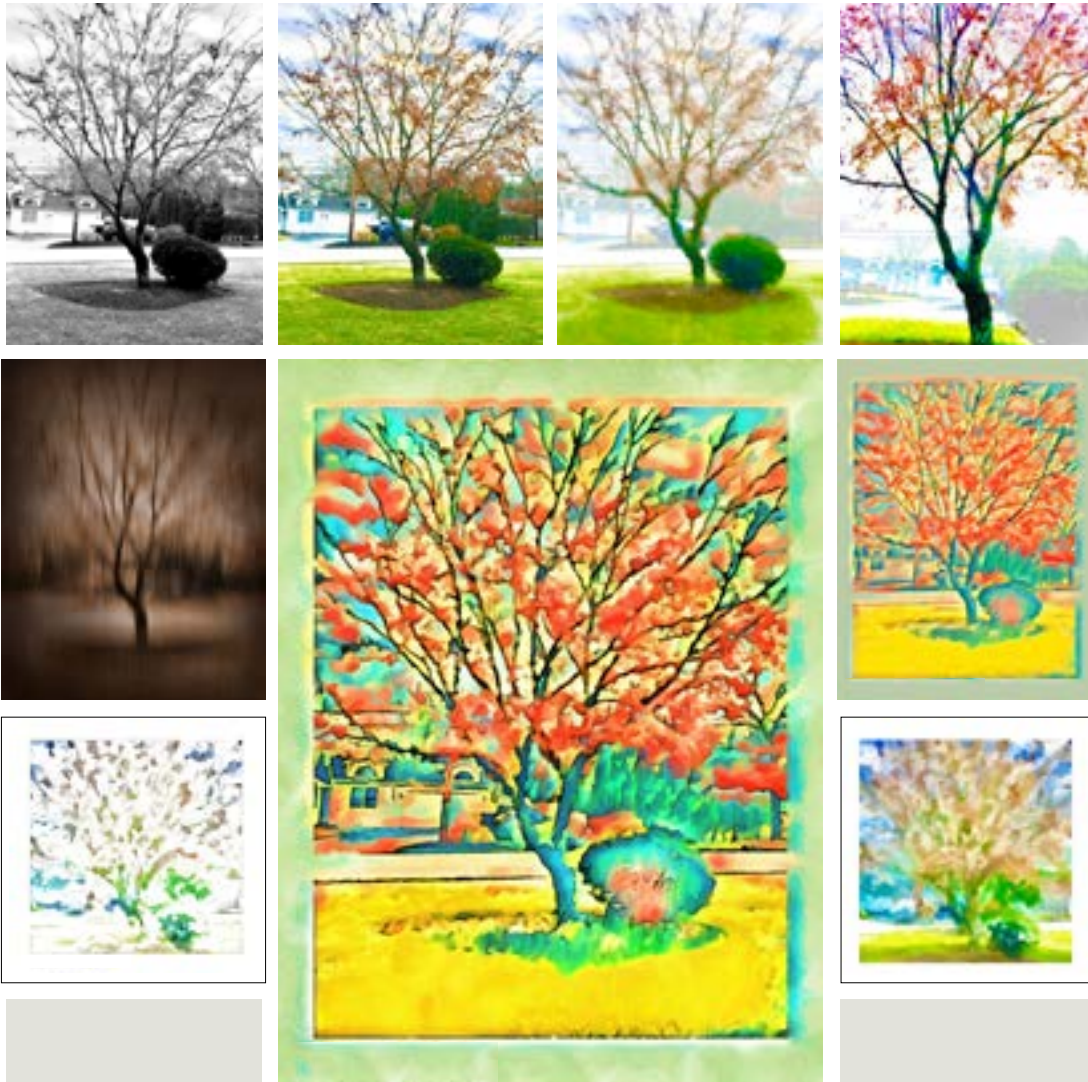
Trees - Photography
Impressionism - Print



While on vacation in Nashville with my wife and friends, we stopped in at Centennial Park. As usual, I was taking photos of anything that interested me and trees are usually part of my subject matter. When there are no leaves on trees, I love to focus on the bark and branches. For the trees I captured here, it was the twists, turns and movements from the roots to the branches reaching out to the sky that was of interest.

When I finally came to pulling them up on my computer, I thought of the history of Centennial Park and wanted to give an old time looks but also loved what I saw as motion in the trees, so I used that to help with the look I wanted to achieve. I kept focus in some areas but wanted to make these photos an impression of what I saw in the trees.

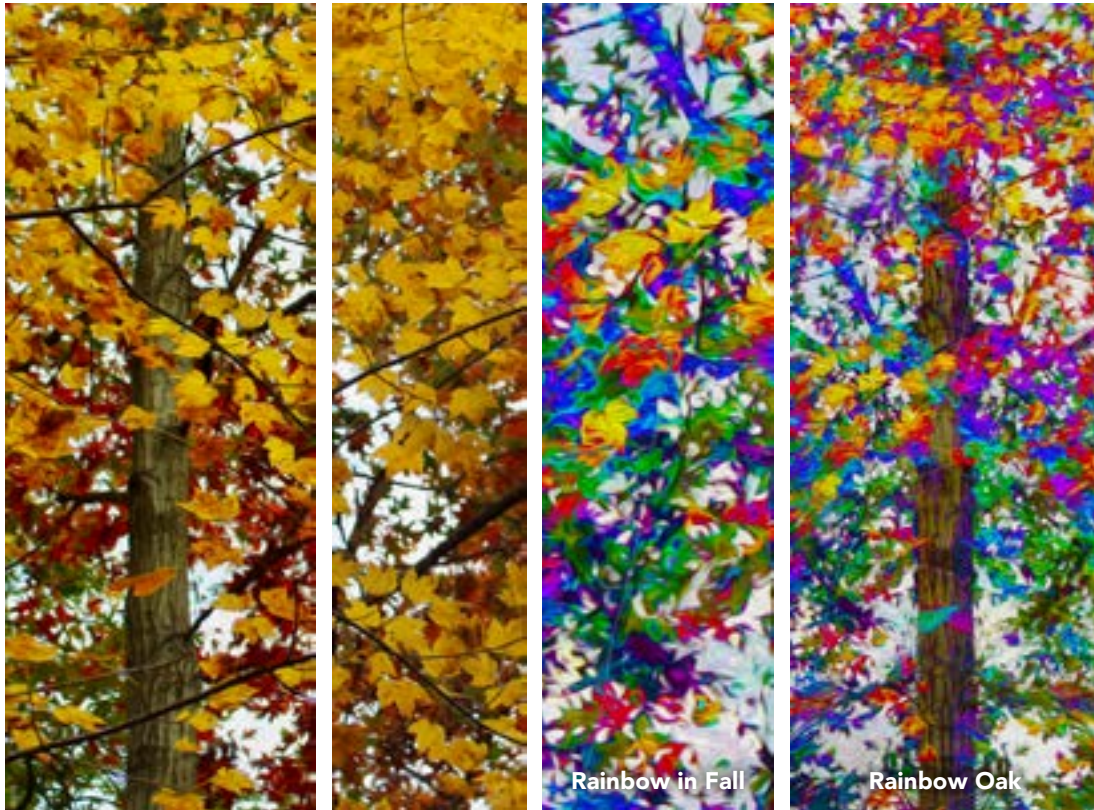
My Red Maple - Photo Painting
Impressionism - Print



I have taken many photos on my property and many of this particular tree. I have captured it on sunny days, cloudy days, evenings with the moon shining through. I photographed it in all seasons and have these images throughout my portfolio of work. My goal is to take this subject and find different vantage points and create completely new art each time.

This original image had some of the leaves dropped from the tree with much of the branches exposed with species of leaves hanging on. I wanted to experiment both sepia tones to be in line with a series of other tree images and experiment with color in a variety of painting styles. This creative exploration is what I thrive on as an artist.

Rainbow in Fall + Rainbow Oak - Photo Painting
Impressionism - Canvas



Trees are an expression of nature and I have plenty of trees throughout my property. This art is focused on an oak tree. The image originally captured in autumn. I had previous success with bringing digital painting techniques to my imagery and continued that artistic journey with this series. I noticed a richness as I brought in a variety of color, and with golden highlights appeared as a living rainbow.

Amalgamation at Dusk - Photography
Photographic print



I love my property... there are so many things that become subject of my art work... and this piece is another example of this. This image started as the silhouette of the top of an oak tree on a gray sky. I wanted to use my technique of separates the silhouettes try and sky into separate color channels, then stretch and pull each channels in different directions to create color patterns.

I then started to look at different croppings of the image for different styles of art. I was (and am still considering) creating as diamond shaped canvas to emphasize the tree top. I then saw something in the image to create a long canvas, for me it had an a feel from art in the far east. The term Amalgamation means "the action or process of uniting or merging two or more things". With that noted, I was particularly happy with the merging of the blue green trees in the background blending with the yellow sky along with red and faded black tree silhouettes.

The Perfect Rose - Photography
Realism - Photographic Print



My Wife and I had one rose bush in our backyard. It was planted next to the back door of my garage. As I was doing yard work, I was walking into the garage and looked at a set of 3 roses that captured my eyes. Te one in the center looked perfect so I ran in the house to get my camera and photographed the three roses with a focus on the one in the center.

I converted it to black and white and places a nice dark vignette to help focus on the pedals in perfect formation, which became "the prefect Roes". At a later date, I did experiment with other looks and also make a lighter version with some soft edging, which I which titled "Winter Rose".

I believe at times, when you capture something of beauty, you can keep the essences of it in a few forms.

Tulip Tree - Photography
Impressionism - Photographic Print



The sky was a deep blue with the contrast of white clouds and the Tulip Tree in my yard surrounded by green oaks and pine trees had become an intense yellow. The tree just jumped out of the background with it's simple shape and color. I captured the image and wanted to make it more of a piece of art but keep its simplicity.

I added a deep vignette around the tree but also opened up some of the mid-tones in the background. I did some work sharpening the focus in some areas and softening others. I did not like the sharp edges of a traditional photo so I brought in an old style of faded photo edging and softened it more then what i originally brought in to get my desired look.

Brightness in November - Photo Painting
Impressionism - Photographic Print

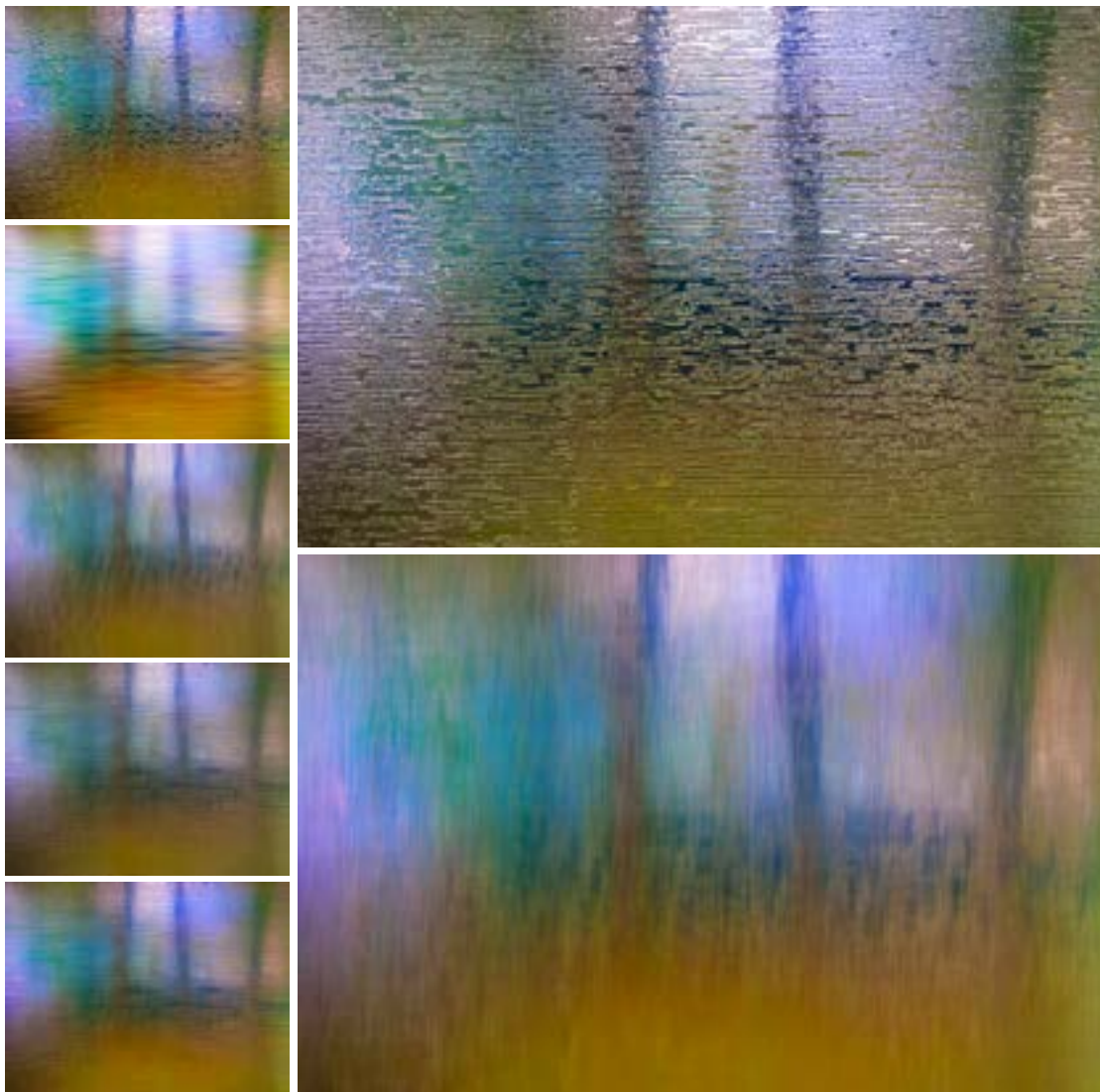


During the month of November the leaves on my “Split-leaf” Red Japanese Maple in my backyard starts to turn. In this particular November the leaves became an intense with a yellow and orange hue. The color appeared bright against the gray sky and green pine trees in the background. The flow of the branches interweaving withing helped make the leaves looked like a flowing dance.

I simply cropped the image to focus on the “movements” of the branches and leaves. I then created the digital brush strokes to accentuate that flowing movement to help the brightness of the yellow coming through the deep oranges and brown branches.

Window Trees (working title) - Photo Painting

Abstract - Photographic print

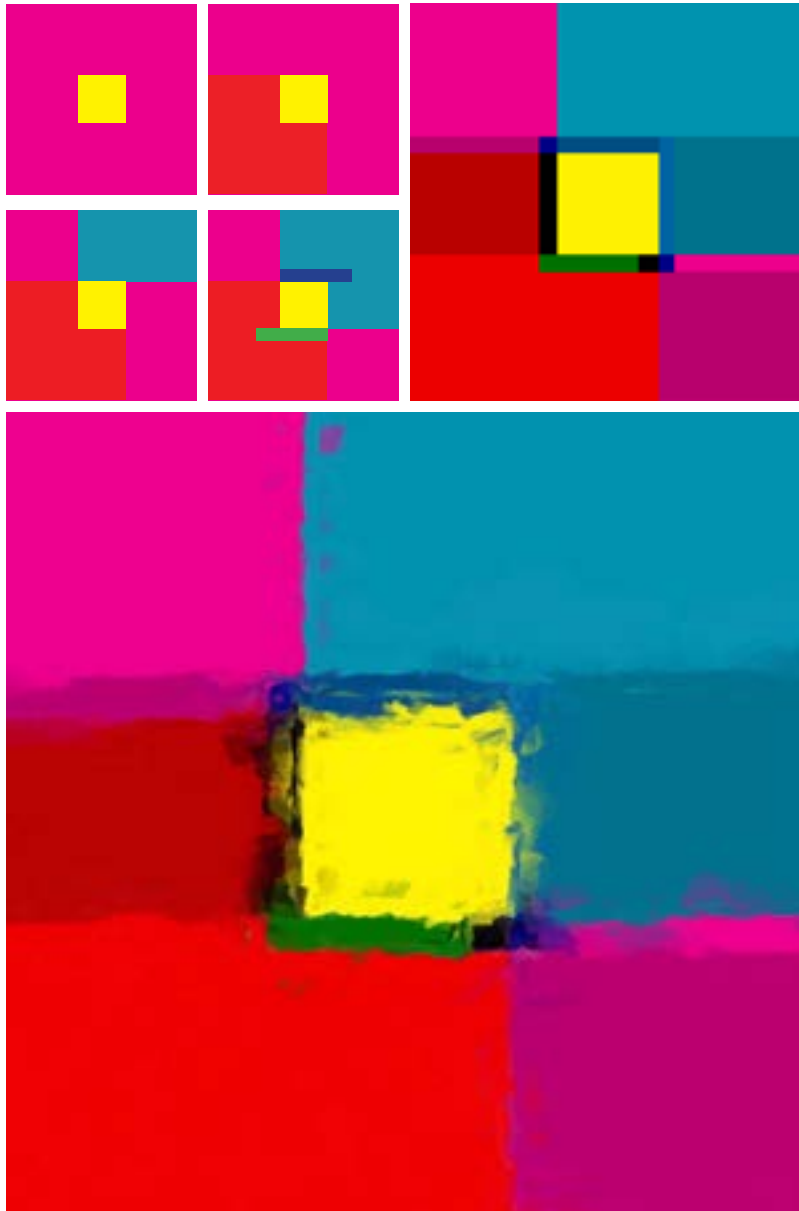


I captured this photo through a window that had a privacy pattern on it. The silhouette of the trees and muted colors interested me. The pattern in the window acted as a filter which started to create this abstract view that caught my eye. I kept playing with some motion techniques along with variations of color saturation to see where I can take this.

There is something I like about each one that I created. I like the deep saturation of color with a horizontal flow in one of them. I like the purity in the pattern with color saturation in another. I like the slight rich but muted color that seemed to work well with a mix of rough horizontal and vertical techniques that created in a couple of others. I am not sure if I just need to finalize the title or I have actually completed this one yet. Stay tuned.

The Meeting of Mark and Piet - Digital Art - 2020

Abstract - Print



Although this piece was not derived from an original photograph, it has been included in the exhibit due to the transformational creative approach in developing this art.

This comes from series of work was conceived and created between late 2019 through late 2020. I was taking a deep dive into studying the work of four artist; Frank Stella, Josef Alpers, Mark Roth and Piet Mondrian. Their work inspired me to create a series of art based upon a combination of the color, tone and shape principles from these talented artists.

For this piece I started with shapes and blocks of color. Once I found the color, tone and composition balance that I liked, the then worked on digital painting techniques to finalize the look that I wanted in this abstract piece.

You can see this and the series in an online exhibit on my website.

Bio:

Paul Cammarata



Paul Cammarata is an award winning Artist, Photographer and Graphic Design Leader living in Port Jefferson Station, NY. He is a past Vice President of the North Shore Art Guild and along-time advisor for the Visual Communications Department of Farmingdale College.

Paul's long history in creative arts and graphic design started with early education that included drawing, painting, photography, design, printing and sculpture. He graduated from SUNY Farmingdale with a degree focused in advertising art and design. For 40 years, Paul has held various roles and lead creative teams in graphic design, art direction, print production, photography, retouching, image creation, videography, creative training and more.

His Art + Photography includes a variety of subjects and niches, such as; Nature as Art, Custom + Classic Automobiles, Destination Imagery, Still Life + Abstract Photography, Photo-paintings and Digital Art. You can also find his work in his self-published books.

You can find Paul's work at www.gallerycstudios.com.

The Art + Photography of Paul Cammarata
www.gallerycstudios.com

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